

Faculty Fellowship Program

Central Ohio Technical College

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) strives to pursue excellence in teaching. As part of that effort, the Provost's Office at COTC has initiated a new program to value faculty innovation and teaching with a lens on equity, success, and completion. As part of both the COTC completion plan and the college's desire to rank among the Aspen Institute's Top 150 Community colleges, this fellowship will focus on improvement of student learning. As noted by the Aspen Excellence Program, *"Aspen Prize colleges commit to improving teaching and learning and have a strategy for what that means at their institution. They may focus on inclusive pedagogy, active learning, a sense of belonging in the classroom, academic rigor with supports—no matter their specific goals, they achieve them via strong professional development opportunities and structures and incentives that support excellent instruction and effective learning."*¹

The Faculty Fellowship program at COTC gives full-time faculty the ability to innovate in a safe space. Faculty participating in the program are given release time from their teaching schedule to pursue new strategies to help COTC achieve its goals as related to the college's completion plan. Fellows are chosen by nomination and serve on renewable terms, depending on the size and scope of the project. Faculty Fellows may serve a maximum two consecutive years. In extenuating or unique circumstances, the Provost may extend fellowships beyond the two-year maximum. Nominations can be made from a supervisor or peer—any staff member may nominate a full-time faculty member for a faculty fellowship. Self-nominations are also accepted and encouraged.

Faculty Fellows will be expected to deliver a final report on their time while serving in the fellowship. Additionally, faculty fellows who embark on a project plan will be expected to provide the college with training materials, lessons learned, and best practices/recommendations for how COTC should move forward (or not) with the studied topic area. The college and faculty member will retain equal, joint ownership and intellectual property interest in any materials produced from the fellowship.

¹ Aspen Institute Framework "What it Takes to be a Top 10 College"

Guidelines for Faculty Fellowship at COTC

- Due to contract and work requirements, only full-time faculty are eligible to apply for a Faculty Fellowship.
- The term of the fellowship will be determined by the scope of work, timeframe to completion, and other factors. Deans will make a recommendation to the Provost regarding an appropriate term of appointment.
- Faculty must present a detailed plan in their nomination packet. The plan should include:
 - Summation of the project/problem you're looking to solve
 - A description of why this project should be undertaken and how it can help the department/program/college.
 - Outline of the work involved in the project
 - Budgetary requirements (outside of normal items)
 - Commitment to present completed work to stakeholder groups
- Faculty will be granted release time to honor the time commitment undertaken for each project. Release time will be developed in a conversation between the faculty member, Dean, and the Provost.
 - As noted in the faculty contract, a faculty member must be teaching at least 51%
- Faculty must be in good-standing with the college and union with no outstanding HR or personnel-related issues.
- Faculty on 9 or 12-month contracts are eligible to apply.
- While there is no limit on the number of times a faculty member can be chosen for a fellowship, preference will be given to faculty who have not been involved in a prior fellowship.
- The Provost will make the final determination on faculty chosen for a faculty fellowship.